Pharmaceuticals industries in this regard; and

(b) when most of the drug intermediates are classified in the concessional rate of 40%, the reasons for classifying others under the maximum rate of duty?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV): (a) The proposals received from various associations of pharmaceutical industry are examined and decided on merits; the nature of examination depending on the contents of the proposals.

(b) Drug intermediates are classified for different concessional rate of duty in accordance with the principle of graded duty structure.

Cooperation between India and Brazil for Agricultural Research

887. SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether talks were held recently between India and Brazil on cooperation in the field of Agricultural Research; and

(b) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MOHD. AYUB KHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As regards outcome of the talks between India and Brazil on cooperation in the field of Agricultural Research, a Memorandum of Understanding between ICAR and the Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation (EMBRAPA) was signed on 30th August, 1995 for strengthening cooperation in the broad areas of plant sciences, soil science, agricultural biotechnology and other areas of mutual interest. The cooperation is proposed to be carried out through organisation of conferences/ seminars, exchange of scientific information and scientists etc.

Improving the Productivity of Oilseeds

888. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA:
DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken to improve the productivity of oilseeds in our country;

(b) the countries from which we import the hybrid oil seeds and sprouted oil palm seedlings;

(c) the reasons for importing this and for not developing it sufficiently in India; and

(d) the steps being taken to see that good quality seeds are made available to farmers in the areas of oilseeds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MOHD. AYUB KHAN): (a) A Centrally Sponsored Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP) is in operation in 22 major oilseeds growing States for increasing the production and the productivity of oilseeds in the country. Under this scheme assistance is provided on the production and distribution of seeds, sprinklers, improved farm implements etc. to improve productivity. Technology dissemination is being done through organizing frontline and general demonstrations on farmer's fields.

(b) The import of seeds of oilseeds is regulated in accordance with the new policy on seed development, 1988 which provides the import of seed of oilseeds for a period not exceeding two years if the variety/hybrid is proved superior in I.C.A.R. trials. Thus, superior cultivars can be imported from the countries except those specified in PFS Order, 1989. The sprouted Oil Palm seedlings are being imported from New Britain Oil Palm Development Ltd. (Papua New Guinea), UNILEVER (England), IDEFOR (Ivory Coast), ASD-de-COSTA Rica S.A. (Costa Rica) and IRHO (France).

(c) The New Policy on Seed Development, 1988 aims at providing to the Indian farmers the best planting material available in the World to increase productivity. Thus only the superior planting material is imported after ascertaining the superiority under Indian conditions.

Oil Palm being the new crop for the country and there is limited availablity of indigenous planting material. The domestic source of planting material is from Central Plantation Crops Research Institute, Palode (Kerala) under Indian Council of Agricultural Research. To meet the future seed demand, three Oil Palm seed gardens one each in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Kerala are being established. A seed garden at National Research for Oil Palm at Eluru in Andhra Pradesh, is also being established with UNDP assistance.